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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC ALTENBURG Airfield.

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DATE OF CONTENT see below

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DATE PREPARED 4 November 1949

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

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17 September 1949

1. a. About four hundred Soviet Air Force officers and EM were stationed at the ALTENBURG (N 51/K 27) airfield. Four transport aircraft were parked between the hangars.

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29 September 1949

2. a. According to a German employed at the field, a parachute school for Soviet officers and officer candidates, almost all of whom wore war decorations, was located at the field. There were 70 officers, 80 officer candidates, 150 flying personnel, a hundred technical personnel, a hundred headquarters and administration personnel, and fifty Germans.

b. The trainees had been given basic parachute training in Russia. About 50 transport aircraft were available for parachute training. Some aircraft with their crews and parachutists were transferred to KOENIGSBRUECK (N 52/A 31) and OHEDRUP (M 51/J 15) for ten-day practices. Paratroopers allegedly took part in maneuvers there.

21 and 28 September 1949

4. a. There was no flying.

25 and 26 September 1949

b. Officers and officer candidates held track contests at the sports grounds.

29 September 1949

5. Thirty transport planes landed at the field. According to informant these aircraft returned from a ten-day practice in

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RECHLIN (N 54/U 12). From the last 18 aircraft, headed by one plane, paratroopers jumped over the ALTENBURG-LEINAWALD (N 51/K 27) area at 6:30 p.m. The aircraft approached at an altitude of about 5,000 feet. Sixty open parachutes were counted. The jump-off hatches on the starboard sides were still open when the aircraft landed individually. Weather conditions: Slight ground wind, visibility range: 12 miles, no clouds.

29 September 1949

6. Twenty-five LI-2 transport aircraft were parked near the flight control station on the northeastern edge of the field, and seven aircraft were parked in the eastern section of the field.

30 September 1949

7. Nine transport aircraft circled the airfield between noon and 5 p.m. Seven railroad tank cars were standing on the airfield spur track.

8. The ALTENBURG field, 4,300 x 5,200 feet, has a NE-SW 265x4,000-foot runway.

Comment:

a. The occupation by an air transport regiment equipped with IL-2s has been known since October 1948 and has not changed. The information on the existence there of a parachute school cannot be verified for lack of comparable information. It is not known if parachute units actually participated in army maneuvers in KOENIGSBRUNNEN and OHREKUP as stated in the report. The air transport regiment was repeatedly observed in connection with shipments of army units, especially to the ERLURT-BINDERLEBEN airfield. Parachute jumping was observed once over ERLURT-BINDERLEBEN in June 1949, but the location of the paratroopers was unknown.

b. The reported dimensions of the airfield and the runway are correct.

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